



**Draft EIR Comment Form Proposed Las Pilitas Quarry Project [1 of 3]**

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**Please respond to Cathy Burkhardt**

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Comment: I cannot, in any way shape or form, support the 58 Quarry's construction as an intelligent course of action for these reasons:

1. Location–

The site of the proposed quarry is not only in a country residential area, it is also located on the scenic drive out to Shell Creek Road for wildflower viewing. The site is currently a gorgeous landscape. With the quarry there, it will turn into a highly visible aesthetically disturbing scar on the hills by the river. Highway 58 is a popular bike route, and the road has no shoulders. Bicyclists will be put at a greater risk with large quantities of quarry trucks attempting to pass them on this narrow, twisting country road. Trucks stuck behind bicyclists will cause traffic build-ups for smaller cars stuck behind them, as well. 58 also goes past Santa Margarita Elementary School, and the children will be negatively impacted by the increased truck traffic as they travel to and from school. The intersection of 58 and El Camino Real is only a block from the school, and is already the busiest intersection in Santa Margarita. That T intersection is on a blind corner where all east-bound must flow. And it's right by the rail road tracks. There is barely enough space for a truck to fit on 58 between El Camino Real and the rail road tracks. When traffic is heavy on El Camino Real (like during rush hour or school starting/getting out), that intersection already turns into a bottleneck from people turning left on a blind corner. With the addition of large trucks, traffic would become a daily frustration in a small town where everything is extremely noticeable. The quality of life in Santa Margarita would change in a manner that its citizens have clearly indicated would make them uncomfortable, as well as 58's and Parkhill Road's citizens. These communities definitely feel that the quarry will negatively impact everyone's quality of life with its location.

2. Environment–

The quarry will not positively affect its environment, quite the opposite. It will consume too much water for a drought stricken area. It will add dust and noise pollution that will be blown by the prevailing offshore winds directly up the Parkhill Valley, which is more densely populated than 58. People who live on Parkhill and have lung problems or are veterans expect to be very negatively impacted by the quarry's dust and noise

pollution. The acoustics of Parkhill Valley (also known as the Golden Valley) are such that trains passing in Santa Margarita are audible, especially when the wind is coming from the west. The countryside is quiet enough that the blasting noises coming from the quarry will most likely be audible for a five mile radius, affecting hundred(s?) of people. The dust will smudge the beautiful view of the mountains for residents of the area, who live here for the loveliness of the natural settings. Animals who live in the area will also be disturbed by the blastings. The kit fox lives in this area and is an endangered species. Since the blastings will be right next to the biggest watering hole in the area (the Salinas River), it is a surety that wild life will suffer from being frightened by the noise so close to an area they require for existence. Water is hard to find here, and some animals will most likely die of thirst if the quarry goes in. Plus, when the quarry is done and to be returned to a wild state, the whole ecology of the area will be difficult, if not impossible, to restore to its present condition. Micro organisms in the soil will have to be reintroduced with native vegetation in an area where native animals have been frightened away. It is likely that non-native, invasive weeds will take root in the disturbed area. The air quality will also be negatively impacted by the pollution generated by having over 200 truck trips a day. The added exhaust from the trucks will lower the air quality for all residents of Santa Margarita, 58, and Parkhill Rd. With the conditions of global warming in effect, this community wishes to protect our already endangered air. It's very important to be able to breathe.

### 3. Ethics-

It violated the principles of intelligence to destroy that which you require for your survival. Good land stewardship does not include destroying said land. Revelations 7:3, "Hurt not the Earth, neither the sea nor the trees." Nature is not a commodity that can be bought; wild land can not be produced in a factory. Once it's gone, it's gone. It is irreplaceable. We have a moral obligation to our children and the future generations to preserve and protect what little wilderness is left. Life doesn't give you a second chance. Once you're dead, you're dead (99.9999% of the time). The karmic toll of destroying now is that there is less for the future generations. We imperil the survival of our future offspring, which is not seen as a sign of intelligence in a species that wishes to continue to exist. So obviously preserving what we have now with loving thoughtfulness for our children would be the most intelligent course for survival. It is clearly unethical to let one man's greed for the double illusion of money(inedible) to negatively impact thousands of lives over hundreds of years. We only have one planet; that's why we have to take care of it. We don't need yet another quarry in this county. We do need fresh air and clean water. Most of the community objects to this quarry; please listen. The health of the community is more important than one man getting rich.